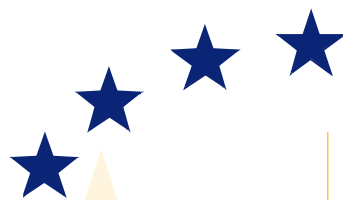




Indiana launches innovative approach to serving families in need.

Governor Frank O'Bannon spearheaded the creation of **FaithWorks Indiana** in November of 1999 to help Hoosiers provide a better life for themselves and their children. The initiative assists faith-based organizations (FBOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) of all types in providing services to Hoosier families and in accessing state, federal and private funding for those services. FaithWorks is the State of Indiana's proactive implementation of the *Charitable Choice* provision of *The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act*, which reformed welfare and allowed faith-based organizations to become involved in helping families help themselves. Less than a year after the launching of FaithWorks, the Center for Public Justice awarded the State of Indiana with an 'A' grade for its efforts in *Charitable Choice* implementation, one of only four A's or A+'s awarded, nationwide.

In Spring of 2000, the initiative launched an outreach campaign to make faith-based and community-based organizations aware of FaithWorks and to assist them with accessing available funding. Approximately 1,000 representatives of faith communities and community-based organizations attended informal meetings across the state to provide input on the direction of FaithWorks Indiana. Interested FBOs and CBOs were then given in-depth technical assistance to develop services and find the funding to support these services. Since the initiative began, more than 600 organizations have benefited from this technical assistance. The result of FaithWorks Indiana's outreach effort is that more than 55 faith-based contracts, totaling approximately \$4.5 million, have been awarded to date by the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) Division of Family and Children.



Through FaithWorks, we don't just let our faith-based organizations know funding exists for their outreach programs – we help them get it. And we follow up with continuous technical support and advice on how to navigate our sometimes-complex system of support.

Very often, faith-based organizations are able to help people who depend on public assistance to move away from that dependence because they work with people needing a little help every day. They have a strong bond of trust and support that only grows stronger as the services expand to lift people up and help them stand strong on their own.

Indiana Governor Frank O'Bannon

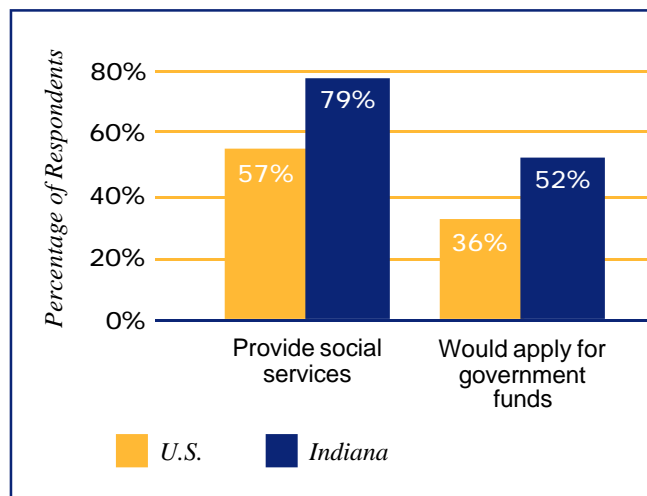
Indiana's faith-based organizations are more involved in social services than the national average.

FSSA sponsored a state-wide survey of FBOs to measure the current level of social service provision and the level of interest in applying for funds to increase their involvement in social services. FBOs in Indiana reported that they are far more likely to be



involved in social service provision (22% higher than the U.S.) and more interested in receiving government funds for such activities (16% higher than the U.S.) than FBOs nation-wide:¹

¹ Chaves, Mark et al. 1999, "Congregations and Welfare Reform: Who Will Take Advantage or Charitable Choice?" *American Sociological Review* 64(6): 836-846.





Partner Profile: Services to neighborhood families on the west side of Indianapolis strengthened through FaithWorks.

Campbell Chapel, a FaithWorks partner in Indianapolis featured on the front page of the October 17, 2000 New York Times, began outreach efforts in 1995 to help neighborhood residents enter the workforce. Their new funding, leveraged through FaithWorks technical assistance, will assist them in their efforts to teach neighborhood adults to use desktop computers and to offer other instruction, including help in obtaining a GED certificate. The expansion of services has allowed the program to join a larger service network, Westside Community Ministries, Inc., to provide more comprehensive services to the community. The organization's goals are to meet the spiritual, educational and physical needs of the people they serve.

Assistance is available for faith-based and community-based organizations.

Technical Assistance Workshops and Consultation

Since 2000, more than 600 representatives from FBOs and CBOs received technical assistance through workshops and one-on-one consulting to learn about developing and implementing services, and accessing public and private funds to serve families in need. Technical assistance addresses:

- Allowable services and practices under the *charitable choice* provision;
- Best practices in service development and delivery;
- Matching community needs with a faith-based organization's values;
- How to write proposals for funding;
- Financial management and how to obtain status as a separate not-for-profit entity; and
- How to access relevant funding sources.

Web Site and Toll-Free Number

The FaithWorks Indiana web site, www.state.in.us/faithworks, contains current information about FaithWorks Indiana and technical assistance information. The web site receives an average of 700 inquiries per month. Visit the web site to learn about FaithWorks Indiana, *Charitable Choice*, funding availability, a schedule of technical assistance workshops, an events calendar for learning and networking opportunities throughout the state, social services offered across the state, and more. A Promising Practices Handbook is also available on the web site, highlighting successful social service initiatives throughout the state that are being implemented by FBOs and community service agencies.

Technical assistance is also provided through the toll-free phone line (1-800-599-6043) to individual FBOs and CBOs interested in serving Hoosier families in need. FaithWorks Indiana has assisted more than 1,300 callers on its toll-free line since the beginning of this initiative.

Building Partnerships

On-going partnerships are being developed between Indiana's faith-based community, FSSA's local Offices of Family and Children in all 92 counties, government agencies, and traditional social service providers. FaithWorks Indiana provides regular outreach to 9,500 FBOs around the state. These local partnerships provide networks to ensure that Hoosier families are connected to the right resources at the right time, from a trusted community resource.



We see the need of many of the residents who live near the church.

We didn't want to be a church that was open only on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights.

There are no strings attached to the services we offer.

Some of the people who come here may not even believe in God, but we help them anyway.

Steve Bonds, Westside Community Ministries, Inc.

Questions *and* Answers

about *Charitable Choice* and Welfare Reform

What is the purpose of the *Charitable Choice* initiative?

Charitable Choice encourages states to involve faith-based organizations (FBOs) as providers of government-funded services to low-income families, while protecting the religious character of the FBOs and the religious freedom of families or individuals.



What types of services can faith-based organizations provide with *Charitable Choice* funding?

Services that may be provided include:

- Job search and job readiness assistance
- Job skill training and GED programs
- Food pantries or meal services
- Adult-supervised residential care for unmarried teen mothers and expectant mothers
- Abstinence education
- Drug treatment services (non-medical)
- Transportation assistance
- Family mentoring
- Parenting classes
- Emergency housing
- Child care
- After-school programs/youth tutoring

What rights do families have under *Charitable Choice*?

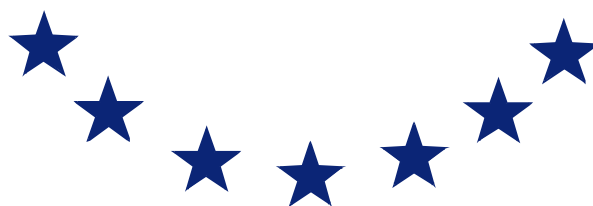
- Nondiscrimination: Faith-based providers may not discriminate against an individual on the basis of religion, a religious belief, or a refusal to actively participate in a religious practice.
- Alternative Services: People who object to receiving services from an FBO are able to choose to receive services from an alternative, non-religious provider.

What rights do faith-based organizations have under *Charitable Choice*?

- Nondiscrimination: States must consider religious organizations on an equal, nondiscriminatory basis with other groups when deciding to contract with private institutions.
- Independence: FBOs retain their independence from government, including their control over the definition, development, practice and expression of their religious beliefs. FBOs do not have to alter their internal governance or remove religious symbols from their premises.



Indiana's Initiative to **Support** Faith-Based and Community-Based Organizations In Providing Services To Hoosier Families in Need



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An initiative of the Indiana Family
and Social Services Administration